



Our Responsibilities

Organization:

Title: Our Responsibilities

Summary: Students learn about the Haudenosaunee Great Law of Peace and the Anishinaabe 7 Grandfather Teachings and reflect on how these teachings can position us to address global conflicts in a good way.

Big Idea: Big Idea C. Reciprocity, Interdependence, and Holism: *Holism exists both in the self and in community and in ideas; Indigenous peoples enjoy a reciprocal relationship with the land that embeds them in a rich web of relationships with human and non-human entities; Interacting with the land both requires and can teach emotional well-being; With the right to harvest and live off of the land comes responsibilities.*

Inquiry Question: Inquiry Question 3. How do reciprocity, interdependence and holism inform Indigenous ways of knowing and being?

Duration: 45 min

Learning Environment: Classroom, online

Season: All

Materials:

- Hiawatha and the Peacemaker by Robbie Robertson: <https://rb.gy/iw9yq>
- Interview with Robbie Robertson about the book Hiawatha and the Peacemaker: <https://rb.gy/tare0>

Meta Data:

Content Type: Activity

Bundle: Indigenous Knowledge

Theme: Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Subject Area: Social Studies, English, Biology, Environmental Education, Science, Social Studies, Geography

Curriculum Focus: 7-10

We recommend inviting an Indigenous community member into the learning environment to provide more in-depth teachings related to the Haudenosaunee Great Law of Peace and the Anishinaabe 7 Grandfather Teachings.

- Teacher plays the following story for students: Hiawatha and the Peacemaker by Robbie Robertson: <https://rb.gy/iw9yq>. Students listen to the story of the Peacemaker and talk about the 3 elements of the Great Law of Peace (peace, strength, a good mind).



- There is also an interview with Robbie Robertson about the book *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker* that students can listen to: <https://rb.gy/tare0>
- Students then read the 7 Sacred Teachings by David Bouchard: <https://rb.gy/czfdd> and reflect on how the 7 Grandfather Teachings of (humility, bravery, honesty, wisdom, truth, respect, love) relate to their own lives.
- Teacher leads a discussion with students regarding what the(se) story(ies) teach about the responsibilities humans have to their families and community. Teacher can extend this to discuss what responsibilities students have to the natural world.

Optional Extension:

- With the teachers, students can discuss a current global conflict and reflect on how the teachings in the stories relate to the conflict and/or how they have the potential to shape the decision making of world leaders in a positive way.
- Teachers can reflect how they can link these teachings to equity-based inquiry projects their students engage in. In Ontario, as part of the Application assessment strand, students are expected to show how they can apply their knowledge to address problems impacting our changing world.